

CLECKHEATON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cleckheaton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration for the year 1898.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population, estimated at 12,648 in the middle of the year, may be regarded as thus distributed in the three wards:—

Cleckheaton	...	10,232.
Scholes	...	1,806.
Oakenshaw	...	610.

The Total Number of Births registered during the year was 311, of which 160 were Males and 151 Females. This is a decrease of 7 on the number registered during 1897. The Total Annual Birth Rate is 24·58, as compared with 25·31 in 1897, this being the rate per thousand population of all ages in the District. This compares unfavourably with the rate of 29·4 per thousand as recorded for England and Wales for the year 1898.

Births.

The separate numbers and rates for each ward are as follows:—

	NUMBER.	Rate per 1,000.
Cleckheaton	257	25·06.
Scholes	39	21·59.
Oakenshaw	15	24·59.

The Rate is therefore highest in Cleckheaton and lowest in Scholes.

Eleven Illegitimate Births were registered during the year, an increase of 6 on the number registered in 1897. This is equal to a percentage of all Births of 3·53.

Illegitimacy.

The Total Number of Deaths registered during the year was 208, an increase of 28 on the number registered in 1897. Of these 208 registered, 103 were Males and 105 Females. Ten deaths were recorded in the Joint Hospital of which 8 were due to patients residing outside the district. The corrected figure for the District is therefore 200.

Deaths.

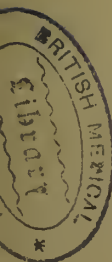
The Total Annual Death Rate is therefore 15·89 as compared with 14·33 recorded in 1897. Although an increase on the figures of the previous year, the rate still contrasts favourably with that of 17·6 throughout England and Wales.

Comparative Table for the past Ten Years.

1888. 1889. 1890. 1891. 1892. 1893. 1894. 1895. 1896. 1897. 1898.
19·81. 18·30. 18·52. 21·13. 15·75. 17·61. 14·89. 18·37. 14·87. 14·33. 15·89.

The Total Number of Infantile Deaths registered, that is, of Children under one year of age was 62, an increase of 16 on the number registered during 1897. These 62 are equal to a percentage of all Deaths of 31, to a percentage of all Births of 19·93 and to a Total Annual Death Rate of 4·89 per thousand population of all ages. The "Infantile Mortality" is therefore 199·35, that being the rate per thousand births for the year, this being an increase of 54·7 on the rate for 1897. The enormous loss of life amongst children of this tender age is one of the most serious features in Vital Statistics, and diseases of the Respiratory Organs and Infantile Diarrhoea are largely responsible for this loss. If greater care were exercised by mothers in the protection of Infants from exposure during the inclement months of the year, and if more accurate knowledge prevailed as to the dangers arising from imperfectly cleansed feeding bottles and unsuitable food, it is fair to assume that a considerable saving of life might be effected.

Infantile
Mortality.



Over 1 year and under 5 years of age the number of deaths registered was 29, an increase of 5 on the number registered in 1897. This is equal to a percentage of all deaths of 14·5, and to a percentage of all births of 9·32.

The Total Number of Deaths therefore of children under 5 years of age is 91, an increase of 21 for the year. This is equal to a percentage of all Deaths of 45·5, to a percentage of all Births of 29·25, and to a Total Annual Death Rate of 7·19.

Tabular Statement of Deaths at all Ages.

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|--------------|
| 0 - 1 | 1 - 5 | 5 - 15 | 15 - 25 | 25 - 65 | 65 & upwards |
| 62 | 29 | 9 | 9 | 58 | 41 |

Old Age.

The Total Number of Deaths registered of those over 70 years was 32, an increase of 8 on the number recorded during 1897. The combined ages of these amount to 2482 years, an average of 77·5. This Class yields a percentage of all deaths of 16 and a Total Annual Death Rate of 2·53 per thousand population of all ages. The oldest inhabitant whose death was registered (a Male) attained to the age of 87 years.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Zymotic Diseases.

Under this head 42 deaths were registered, but as 8 of these were due to residents outside the District the corrected number is 34, an increase of 9 on 1897. This is equal to a percentage of all deaths of 17, and to a Total Annual Death Rate of 2·68.

The numbers recorded under each separate Zymotic Disease are given in tabular form below, together with the percentage of all deaths and the numbers due to each in the years 1896 and 1897.

| DISEASE. | No. of Deaths. | Per cent of all deaths. | No. of Deaths in 1897. | No. of deaths in 1896. |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Small-Pox | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 3 | 1·5 | 7 | 0 |
| Scarlet-Fever | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Diphtheria | 3 | 1·5 | 0 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | 1·0 | 3 | 8 |
| Enteric Fever | 4 | 2·0 | 3 | 2 |
| Diarrhœa | 22 | 11·0 | 10 | 2 |
| | 34 | 17·0 | 25 | 16 |

Diarrhœa.

Under this head 22 deaths were registered, an increase of 12 on 1897. Of this number no less than 17 were registered during August, September and October, a period when the bacterial organisms causing this disease possess most vitality, and when flies abound, hovering from privy-middens to articles of food. Amongst Infants too, the unsuitability of Cows' Milk, aggravated at that period of the year is a fruitful cause of the disease.

The figures give a percentage of all Deaths of 11, and a Total Annual Death Rate of 1·73 per thousand population.

Phthisis.

Twelve Deaths were due to this wasting disease, a decrease of 5 on 1897. This is equal to a percentage of all deaths of 6, and to a Total Annual Death Rate of 0·94. The year has seen an important crusade commenced throughout the Country against this scourge of the British Isles, and the public cannot be too much alive to the benefits on the one hand accruing from the habit of free ventilation, the perfect boiling of all milk, and cooking of meat as preventative measures, and to the dangers to which a healthy person is made liable from intimate contact with a phthisical subject and the infectiveness of the expectoration of such patients, too often carelessly cast upon public pavements.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Under this head 28 deaths were registered, a decrease of 4 on 1897. Of these 11 were due to Bronchitis and 17 to Pneumonia. 22 out of the 28 deaths were registered during the months of January, February, March, April and December. The figures yield a percentage of all deaths of 14, and a Total Annual Death Rate of 2·21.

Heart Disease.

Eighteen deaths were due to this cause, a decrease of 5 on 1897. This is equal to a Total Annual Death Rate of 1·42.

Cancer.

Four deaths were due to this disease, a decrease of 2 on the year 1897. This is equal to a percentage of all Deaths of 2, and to a Total Annual Death Rate of 0·31.

An extensive epidemic of this disease visiting the district in the earlier months of the year, caused 5 deaths as against none recorded in 1897. This is equal to a percentage of all deaths of 2·5, and to a Total Annual Death Rate of 0·39.

Influenza.

This disease was responsible for 9 deaths, almost all of the chronic form. This is equal to a percentage of all deaths of 4·5, and to a Total Annual Death Rate of 0·71.

Bright's Disease.

Four Inquests were held by the West Riding Coroner. In 2 cases verdicts of death from Heart Disease were recorded, and of the other two a verdict of Accidental Suffocation from over-lying in one case, and from falling from a dray in the other.

Inquests.

The foregoing report of Vital Statistics although hardly so favourable as the preceding year, is far from unsatisfactory. The Birth Rate steadily declines it is true but the Death Rate is again one considerably below the average for England and Wales. Infantile and Senile Mortality have increased, as also has the mortality from Zymotic Diseases, but from Measles, Scarlet Fever, Phthisis, Heart Disease and Respiratory Diseases, a less mortality has been incurred.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Sanitary Work of the district has received careful attention from your officers; sanitary defects prejudicing the public health have been remedied upon representations made as also in accordance with notices served by order of the Council.

Sixty-seven Notifications of Infectious Disease were received, this being a decrease of 63 upon the number in 1897. Scarlet-Fever shows a decrease of 53, whilst Enteric Fever shows an increase of 7. No epidemic of notifiable disease visited the district, the cases occurring sporadically. The reduction in number of this class of disease is eminently satisfactory.

Notifications of Infectious Disease.

The distribution and record comparatively of all notified diseases for the past 2 years is shown in the appended table in addition to the number of cases removed to Hospital :—

| | Scarlet Fever | Enteric Fever | Erysipelas | Diphtheria | Sent to Hospital
Scarlet
Fever | Enteric
Fever. |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cleckheaton | 28 (1897 - 44) | 9 (1897 - 5) | 10 (1897 - 11) | 3 (1897 - 0) | 21 | 8 |
| Scholes | 2 (" - 37) | 4 (" - 1) | 3 (" - 2) | 0 (" - 0) | 1 | 1 |
| Oakenshaw | 2 (" - 4) | 5 (" - 5) | 0 (" - 0) | 1 (" - 0) | 1 | 2 |
| Totals | 32 85 | 18 11 | 13 13 | 4 0 | 23 | 11 |

The percentage of removals to Hospital of all eligible cases amounts to 68 per cent, a highly satisfactory record; the record for 1897 was 61·43. This is a practical evidence of the popularity of the hospital, founded upon the confidence of parents in the district in its comfort and management.

By the courtesy of the Vaccination Officer I have been enabled to tabulate figures, possibly of interest, which are as follows :—

Vaccination.

(Cleckheaton U.D. only.)

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Infants registered during 1898 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 311 |
| Infants vaccinated up to date of this report (of the 311 only) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 81 |
| Infants deceased up to date of this report | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Balance | ... | ... | ... | ... | 161 |

From this it appears that 20·6 per cent of the total number registered have at the present time been vaccinated whilst the 3·21 per cent of "conscientious objection" would lead one to suppose that omission to have this valuable immunity from a loathsome disease conferred upon an infant is often the result of negligence rather than real objection. It is ardently to be desired that all the out-standing cases may receive vaccination during the present year. The situation of a community with any considerable proportion of its inhabitants unvaccinated in the event of an epidemic, which is always possible, is anything but desirable.

Much inconvenience and great dis-comfort were experienced for some time in the autumn owing to the defective quantity and quality of the Bradford High-Level water supply. A time of drought necessarily demands the exercise of forbearance on the part of those within the area of distribution, but the character of the supply alluded to, is also at other times of a nature to leave much to be desired, and demands a repetition of previous complaints to the authority controlling its distribution when it again appears to be impregnated with sedimentary matter.

Water Supply.

Scavenging.

The extension of the system of collection of refuse and night-soil under the Council's own Scavengers, has been an improvement upon the old system, but I am of opinion that this removal should be carried out in the night hours and the annoyance to householders at present entailed, be in that way obviated.

Ambulance.

The Horse Ambulance presented to the town in 1897 has been utilized on 15 different occasions during the past year. On eight of these occasions it was requisitioned to convey invalids, and on seven occasions to transport accident cases. At such times it has proved of great service.

Building.

The working class dwellings erected during the year with the exception of one block have been of a superior class and if, as is possible, a higher rent be entailed, there can be no doubt that well lighted and ventilated dwellings are one of the most profitable investments to the wage earning classes from the point of view of health. The Council will act wisely in carrying out its determination to allow no back-to-back houses to be erected in the district.

Sewage Disposal.

The system of sewers and house connections accomplished, places the district in an improved position in this respect. Attention may with advantage be publicly called to the great difficulty which the Sanitary Officials, even with the utmost vigilance, encounter, when contractors and workmen, in laying house drains, omit to give notice according to Bye-Law before proceeding to cover up such drains. In one detached house to which my attention was called, the main drain was discovered to be laid with a fall actually *towards* the house, the pipe junctions apart, and soil-pipe matter and sewage infiltrating the cellar.

I am, Gentlemen,

Obediently yours,

C. HAROLD DYER, M.D., Aberd.

Town Hall, Cleckheaton,

March 25th, 1899.